

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7248

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4868

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR CB

SUBJ: KHMER AND KOREA IN 29TH UNGA: TIMING OF DEBATES

REF: USUN 4608

SUMMARY: GRUNK SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING GA PRESIDNET BOUTEFLIKA, ARE APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO HAVE PLENARY BEGIN KHMER DEBATE NOVEMBER 25 JUST AFTER PALESTINE DEBATE CONCLUDES. THEY ARE TRYING ALSO TO HAVE FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE ON KOREA POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER PLENARY FINISHES WITH KHMER. END SUMMARY

1. GENERAL COMMITTEE MET MORNING NOVEMBER 8 TO REVIEW 29TH UNGA WORK PROGRAM. WE AND FRIENDS WERE PREPARED FOR HOSTILE SUGGESTION AT GC MEETING THAT KOREA BE RESCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN FIRST COMMITTEE EARLY DECEMBER TO PERMIT PLENARY TO TAKE UP KHMER NOVEMBER 25 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PALESTINE DEBATE. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. AT GC MEETING, FIRST COMMITTEE
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CHAIRMAN ORTIZ DE ROZAS CONFIRMED THAT KOREA DEBATE

WOULD BEGIN NOVEMBER 25. USYG MORSE, IN REVIEWING PLENARY AGENDA, MENTIONED KHMER AMONG ITEMS YET TO BE TAKEN UP SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS ON TIMING BUT DID NOT SUGGEST DATE. GA PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA DID NOT MENTION DATE EITHER.

2. WE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER GC MEETING BOUTEFLIKA ASKED ORTIZ DE ROZAS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING OPENING OF KREA DEBATE. ORTIZ DID NOT AGREE, NOTING THAT FIRST COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSULTED, BUT HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF OPENING KOREA ON TIME, SUSPENDING FIRST COMMITTEE WHILE PLENARY ACTS ON KHMER, THEN COMPLETING KOREA DEBATE.

3. ROK AMBASSADOR PARK INTENDS TO MAKE CLEAR TO ORTIZ THAT ROK OPPOSES ANY CHANGE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FONMIN KIM'S SCHEDULE, WHICH HAS BEEN BASED ON FIRST COMMITTEE AGENDA DECIDED UPON SIX WEEKS AGO. ANAND OF THAILAND ALSO HAS SPOKEN TO ORTIZ.

4. BOUTEFLIKA HAS NOT CONSULTED FRIENDLY COSPONSORS ABOUT TIMING OF DEBATE. PERMREPS OF JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND AND THAILAND ASKED FOR BUT HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED AS OF EVENING NOV 8 URGENT APPOINTMENT TO PRESS BOUTEFLIKA TO ADHERE TO SCHEDULE FOR KHMER DEBATE PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT, BEGINNING EARLY DECEMBER. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE LEARNED THAT BOUTEFLIKA HAD INSTRUCTED MORSE NOV 8 TO PLAN FOR KHMER DEBATE TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 25.

5. COMMENT: (A) WE HAD ANTICIPATED THAT QUESTION WOULD BE RAISED IN GENERAL COMMITTEE BECAUSE CHINESE HAD APPROACHED ORTIZ EARLY THIS WEEK ABOUT CHANGING DATE FOR KOREA. WE CONCLUDED THAT CHINESE ACTION ON KOREA TIMING ACTUALLY GREW FROM CONCERN ABOUT KHMER. ROK AMB. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH COSPONSORS, TOLD ORTIZ THEN THAT WE PREFERRED STICK TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. BOUTEFLIKA'S NOVEMBER 8 APPROACH TO ORTIZ PRESUMABLY WAS MADE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH CHINESE AFTER LATTER FAILED TO GET POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM ORTIZ.

(B) CHINESE, WHO APPARENTLY ARE PLAYING STRONG ROLE IN PLANNING TACTICS FOR KHMER ITEM, PRESUMABLY HAVE CONCLUDED, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND PERSUADED OTHER GURNK COSPONSORS, THAT PASSAGE OF TIME WOULD WEAKEN THEIR POSITION. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THEY BELIEVE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY PALESTINE DEBATE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL FOR KHMER DEBATE IF TWO ITEMS WERE BACK TO BACK IN PLENARY. ANOTHER FACTOR WOULD BE A CALCULATION THAT, SINCE THEY HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS ON KHMER ISSUE THAN ON KOREA, EARLIER KHMER DEBATE WOULD BE BETTER FOR THEM. SCALI

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